



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
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NOT ALL BANDED BIRDS COME FROM WASHINGTON.

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A bird bearing on its leg a band numbered 231048 on one side, and stamped "Washington, D.C." on the other, was shot 30 miles west of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, on September 15 and the matter written up in an Edmonton paper under the heading "Washington Duck Shot in Alberta." That the bird was banded in Illinois instead of Washington, D.C., however, was learned from the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. When the files of that Bureau were consulted they showed that the bird so numbered was a mallard duck and that it had been banded by an assistant of the Biological Survey at the Sanganois Gun Club, Browning, Ill., on November 28, 1922, about ten months previously. The writer of the news article, not knowing the details of the bird-banding activities of the Government at Washington, concluded that the bird had been marked in that city.

When banded wild birds are found with a serial number and the abbreviation "Biol. Surv." stamped on one side and the abbreviated address "Wash. D.C." on the other, it does not mean that the bird so numbered was hatched in the American capital or that it was turned loose there. All bands bear this address in order that information regarding their recovery may be mailed to Washington, where in the central office of the Biological Survey, records are kept of all the birds banded by about 850 cooperators of the bureau stationed in various parts of the country and holding permits to engage in the work of banding.

Anyone is likely to come across a banded bird which has met with an accident, especially during the fall shooting season. The bands are so small that they can only show the number of the bird and indicate that the Biological Survey should be notified - preferably by mailing the band itself to Washington with information regarding the place and date of its recovery. The sender of the information receives a card in a few days, telling him where and when the bird was actually banded. Public cooperation in the matter will be a great aid in studies of the migration of birds.

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